

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NEA-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15

TRSE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 MC-02 EB-11 /115 R

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OSD/ISA:COL FREIMARK

OSD/I AND L:MR. CROSKERY

ARMY:COL SHAUGNESSY

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R 142311Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS STATE 030891

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: STATUS OF ARMY BUSHMASTER PROGRAM

REF: (A) USNATO 239; (B) STATE 21820

1. DOD INFORMS US NOW THAT STATUS OF ARMY BUSHMASTER PROGRAM IS AS FOLLOWS, AND NOT AS OUTLINED IN REF B: DECISION ON SELECTION OF CANDIDATE WEAPON FOR FULL SCALE DEVELOPMENT TO MEET BUSHMASTER REQUIREMENTS WAS EXPECTED IN DECEMBER 1973 BUT DEFERRED BY DA PENDING RESOLUTION OF ISSUES AS FOLLOWS: (1) UNCERTAINTY IN THE NATURE OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR ARMOR PENETRATION; (2) CONFORMANCE OF THE ON-GOING PROGRAM WITH STRINGENT DOD POLICY ON STANDARDIZATION OF AMMUNITION; (3) TEST RESULTS OF CANDIDATES FELL CONSIDERABLY SHORT OF ULTIMATE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES; (4) UNCERTAINTY THAT THE BUSHMASTER CANDIDATES INCLUDE ALL UNCLASSIFIED

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PROMISING TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS. DECISION ON BUSHMASTER

EXPECTED LATER THIS YEAR. THE DEFERRAL OF THE
DECISION AT THIS TIME ON SELECTION OF A SYSTEM FOR
BUSHMASTER FULL SCALE DEVELOPMENT DOES NOT MEAN THAT DA
HAS DECIDED AGAINST FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF ANY OF THE
THREE CANDIDATE SYSTEMS.

2. CURRENT DOD POLICY ON AMMUNITION STANDARDIZATION IS

STATED IN DEPSECDEF MEMORANDUM OF JANUARY 10, 1974 TO
SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS, SUBJECT:
STANDARDIZATION OF MEDIUM CALIBER AMMUNITION FOR
AUTOMATIC CANNONS. THIS POLICY REQUIRES ALL US
MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS AND PROCUREMENTS FOR CONVENTIONAL
CASED AMMUNITION IN THE 20MM TO 40MM CALIBER RANGE
FOR SURFACE AND AIRCRAFT WEAPON SYSTEMS TO BE IN
5MM INCREMENTS BEGINNING WITH 20MM; REQUIRES SELECTION
OF ONLY A MINIMUM NUMBER OF STANDARD ROUNDS IN EACH
CALIBER; AND REQUIRES INTERCHANGEABILITY OF ROUNDS
WITHIN A STANDARD CALIBER.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT, ARMED FORCES, ARMS, MILITARY BASES, BUSHMASTER PROGRAM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE030891
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MR. HORTON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740231/aaaabdcv.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) USNATO 239; (B) STATE 21820
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 MAR 2002 by elbezejf>; APPROVED <29-Aug-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATUS OF ARMY BUSHMASTER PROGRAM
TAGS: MCAP, NATO
To: NATO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005